

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 1-12 and 17-19 are currently being cancelled.

Claims 13-16 are currently being amended.

Claims 20-23 are currently being added.

This amendment and reply adds, cancels and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After adding, canceling and amending the claims as set forth above, claims 13-16 and 20-23 are now pending in this application.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter made in the Office Action with respect to claims 13-16. By way of this amendment and reply, claims 13-16 have each been placed in independent form to include the features of their respective base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, presently pending claims 13-16 are now in allowable form based on the indications made in the Office Action.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1-8 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,954,446 to Kuffner. Due to the cancellation of claims 1-8 and 19, this rejection is now moot.

New Claims:

New claims 20-23 have been added, whereby these claims respectively correspond to claims 13-16 written with non-means-plus-function language. Thus, claims 20-23 are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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